

February 26, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

2568 '01 MAR -5 10:16

Jessica Bushore
333 Cleveland Rd Apt 5D
Norwalk, OH 44857

Re: Petition 98P-0151/CP1

Dear U.S. Food and Drug Administration,

I was excited to read about the USDA's recent adoption of policies to prohibit the purchase of meat from downed cows for Federal programs. Therefore, I am writing today to encourage you to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to further prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for human consumption. The passage of this legislature is crucial to protect the American populace from the inherent dangers of this tainted food supply, and to encourage better care for the animals themselves as shown by the following facts.

- Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. They pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination, and some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, a disease which has been linked to the fatal human illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
- It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- Downed animals comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90% percent of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I hope you will pass this important and long needed legislature.

Sincerely,

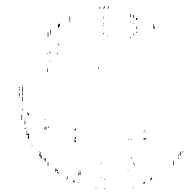


Jessica Bushore

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N. Hellmers and J. Bushore
333 Cleveland Road Unit #5D
Norwalk, OH 44857



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